

Remarks

Reconsideration and reversal of the rejections expressed in the Office Action of March 31, 2010 are respectfully contended in view of the following remarks and the application as amended. The present invention relates to a method for coating objects, particularly plumbing fixtures, having metallic surfaces. According to the method, at least one organosilane is applied during the so-called sol-gel process after an optionally provided pretreatment step that serves to activate the metallic surfaces, and the coating obtained thereby is transformed into a polysiloxane coating.

The claim objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph are overcome by the claims as clarified. Support for claim amendments is found in the specification as filed.

Claims 1-3, 5, 10-14, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jung et al. (WO 02/31064). The Office Action states, inter alia, that it would have been obvious to incorporate a modified fluoroalkyl silane for the utilized "another silane," since Jung teaches that mixtures using modified fluoroalkyl silane with BTSE will also provide effective protection.

Jung et al. teach a specific method for coating a metallic strip (or strip sections produced from such a strip). This strip is either coated with an anticorrosion layer and then with a layer of a paint-like coating containing polymers or (without an anticorrosion layer) with a layer of said paint-like coating containing polymers. This anticorrosion pre-treatment can be done by a layer of a silane. After such coating takes place, the strip is divided into strip sections. The coated strip sections are then formed, joined and/or coated with at least one (other) paint-like coating or paint coating. This paint-like coating is formed by coating the surface with an aqueous dispersion comprising (besides water): a) an organic film former; b) an inorganic compound in particle form (average particle diameter 0.0005 to 0.3 μm); and c) at least one lubricant and/or at least one corrosion inhibitor.

Therefore, in Jung et al. there is only one "polysiloxane coating" in terms of claim 1 of the present application, namely the anticorrosion layer formed on the strip at the very beginning.

However, this anticorrosion layer from the silane is painted over with the aqueous dispersion noted above, containing components a), b) and c).

Applicant respectfully contends that there are totally different requirements for a separate and final coating as per in claim 1 of the present application, versus that of a first coating which has to be painted over with a further paint, namely an aqueous dispersion mentioned in Jung et al. If a first anticorrosion layer (according to Jung et al.) is too hydrophobic, there would be a problem in generating a coating of the aqueous composition over such layer. However, paint adhesion is necessary for the objects of Jung et al. for a long-term use of the coated strips, such as corrugated iron sheets, etc. Thus, the composition and features of the coating according to claim 1 of the present application cannot be compared with the overall coating according to Jung et al., but only to the coating of the pre-treatment step of Jung et al. (anticorrosion layer).

It therefore follows that it is not relevant for the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application that the component "polysiloxane" is mentioned in the paint-like coatings of Jung et al. as a component (see, e.g., inventive example 30 of Jung et al. corresponding to paragraphs 308 ff. mentioned in the Office Action). For instance, at Example 30 and Table 11, the content of polysiloxane is from about 1% to 2%. Therefore, the (paint-like) compositions of Table 11 are clearly organic polymeric compositions, in which such a small silane content or polysiloxane content will only lead to silylated organic polymers. Thus, there is no free silane or polysiloxane content in the resulting coatings, whereas the coatings of the present application contain typically 100% polysiloxane.

It is clear that the overall coating provided by Jung et al. has nothing to do with the polysiloxane coatings provided by the claims of the present application. As noted above, an anticorrosion layer to be painted over by a further paint-like coating has different requirements than a polysiloxane coating being the final (or last) coating on an object. In this context, please further note that Jung et al. do not indicate the use of any mixtures of silanes by disclosing a combination of a modified fluoroalkylsilane with 1,2-bis(triethoxysilyl)ethane; to the contrary, a large number of different silanes or silane classes are mentioned. This results in a very high number of combinations which are theoretically possible. Therefore, Jung et al. provides no

teaching or suggestion of the invention as presently claimed, and prima facie obviousness is not established.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if any questions arise during the course of reconsideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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